



UTAH DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH



IntermountainSM
Primary Children's
Medical Center

News Release

For Immediate Release:
Monday, September 20, 2010

Media Contact:

Christi Fisher

Safe Kids Utah Coordinator

(o) 801-538-6852 (m) 801-860-2544

Janet Brooks

Primary Children's Medical Center

(o) 801-662-6585 (m) 801-597-8070

Get Help Installing Car Seats Correctly

Child Passenger Safety Week is September 19-25

(Salt Lake City, UT) – Every day, Utah emergency room staff treat three children under age nine for injuries due to motor vehicle crashes: that's 1,100 children per year. Utah Department of Health (UDOH) injury experts say many are hurt because they aren't properly buckled into a car seat or booster seat. The UDOH, Utah's Local Health Departments, Safe Kids Utah, and other community partners will celebrate National Child Passenger Safety Week with free events to help parents learn if their child is buckled up correctly.

"It's the responsibility of every parent and caregiver to make sure their children are safely restrained—every trip, every time," said Christi Fisher, Director of Safe Kids Utah and a health educator with the UDOH Violence and Injury Prevention Program (VIPPP).

Free car seat checks will be held across the state the week of September 19-25, 2010. Certified child passenger safety technicians will be on hand to show parents how to install their car seats and booster seats the right way. Events will be held:

- September 19-25 – Used car seat recycling drop-off station at any Unified Fire Department or Deseret Industries in Salt Lake County
- September 24 and 25 – Car seat safety booth in conjunction with the "What a Woman Wants Expo" at the South Towne Expo Center (9575 South State Street, Sandy)
- Tuesday, September 21 – Car seat checkpoint and donation drive from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Utah Dream Center (1624 South 1000 West, Salt Lake City)
- Wednesday, September 22 – Car seat checkpoint from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Mike's Food Town (270 North Main Street, Beaver)
- Wednesday, September 22 – Car seat checkpoint from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Price Fire Department (87 North 200 East, Price)
- Friday, September 24 – Car seat checkpoint from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Summit County Health Department (650 Round Valley Drive, Park City)
- Saturday, September 25 – Car seat checkpoint from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at K-Mart (1080 South Highway 118, Richfield)

-MORE-

Page 2 of 2 – Get Help Installing Car Seats Correctly

- Saturday, September 25 – Car seat checkpoint from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Thrifty Car Sales (10736 South State Street, Sandy)
- Saturday, September 25 – Car seat checkpoint from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Hansen Motor Company (1175 South Commerce Way, Brigham City)
- Saturday, September 25 – Car seat checkpoint from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Utah Plaza (7500 East Highway 40, Ft. Duchesne)
- Friday, October 1 – Car seat safety training class at 5:30 p.m. at the Washington City Community Center (350 North Community Center Drive, Washington)
- Friday, October 1 – Car seat checkpoint from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Home Depot (1440 South Technology Drive, Richfield)
- Wednesday, October 6 – Car seat checkpoint and bicycle rodeo from 5:00-8:00 p.m. at the St. George Police Dept. (265 N. 200 E., St. George)
- Friday, October 8 – Car seat checkpoint from 5:00-8:00 p.m. at Sunset Elementary (495 Westridge Drive, St. George)

“Making sure your child’s car seat is installed right is one of the best decisions you’ll ever make,” said Janet Brooks, Safe Kids Utah Vice President and Child Advocacy Manager with Primary Children’s Medical Center. “Child seats reduce the chance of an infant being killed in a crash by 71 percent and the risk of a toddler being killed by 54 percent. Kids in booster seats are also less likely to be killed (45 percent) than those who are restrained only by seat belts.”

Other tips include:

- Place children in the back seat in a properly installed child safety seat or booster seat. Infants should be restrained in rear-facing child safety seats for as long as possible. At minimum, until at least until age 1 and at least 20 pounds. Children should remain rear facing until around age 2.
- Toddlers should ride in forward-facing child safety seats in the back seat until they reach the upper weight or height limit of the seat (usually around age 4 and 40 pounds).
- By law, children must ride in booster seats until age 8. It’s even safer to keep them in boosters until they’re 4 feet 9 inches tall, no matter their age.
- Use the car seat instruction manual and the vehicle owner’s manual to make sure the car seat is properly installed.
- Send in the car seat registration card so that the manufacturer can contact you about any recalls.
- Replace any car seats that were in use during a motor vehicle crash.

Funding for these activities was provided by the Utah Highway Safety Office. To learn more visit www.safekidsutah.org.

###

The mission of the Utah Department of Health is to protect the public's health through preventing avoidable illness, injury, disability and premature death, assuring access to affordable, quality health care, and promoting healthy lifestyles.